

Dynamic Domains of DTS: Simulations of a Spherical Magnetized Couette Flow

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The Derviche Tourneur Sodium experiment, a spherical Couette magnetohydrodynamics experiment with liquid sodium as the medium and a dipole magnetic field imposed from the inner sphere, recently underwent upgrades to its diagnostics to better characterize the flow and induced magnetic fields with global rotation. In tandem with the upgrades, a set of direct numerical simulations were run with the `xshells` code [1] to give a more complete view of the fluid and magnetic dynamics at various rotation rates of the inner and outer spheres. These simulations reveal several dynamic regimes, determined by the Rossby number. At positive differential rotation there is a regime of quasigeostrophic flow, with low levels of fluctuations near the outer sphere. Negative differential rotation shows a regime of what appear to be saturated hydrodynamic instabilities at low negative differential rotation, followed by a regime where filamentary structures develop at low latitudes and persist over five to ten differential rotation periods as they drift poleward. The simulated flows can produce the same measurements as those that the physical experiment can take, with signatures akin to those found in the experiment. This paper discusses the relation between the internal velocity structures of the flow and their magnetic signatures at the surface.

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Spherical Couette flow, a fluid medium sandwiched between two spheres rotating about a common axis, has a long history in the fluid dynamics community. Transitions to chaos were investigated in spherical Couette flow with a stationary outer sphere, with many groups reporting axisymmetric instabilities, akin to Taylor Görtler vortices, that sometimes broke the equatorial symmetry of the system [2–6]. Planet- and star-like systems were studied by rapidly rotating the outer sphere. At low differential rotation these flows are organized quasigeostrophically [7, 8] with a large shear across the tangent cylinder, the immaterial cylinder aligned with the rotation axis and touching the inner sphere’s equator. The first instability of this Stewartson shear layer is non-axisymmetric [9, 10].

At moderate counter-rotation, experiments in Maryland reported inertial modes [11, 12] excited by an over-critical shear across the Stewartson layer. Wicht [13] provides a thorough bestiary of the different regimes in numerical realizations of spherical Couette flow.

Magnetized spherical Couette (MSC) flow, where the fluid is electrically conducting and a magnetic field is applied from outside the fluid domain, introduces new dynamics. With an applied dipole field and a conductive inner sphere, magnetic entrainment yields a fluid domain rotating faster than the inner sphere. This linear, theoretical result [14, 15] at low differential rotation has been extended to nonlinear systems in both experiments [16] and simulations [17]. Experiments reveal that fluctuations show up as a succession of broad peaks in the magnetic frequency spectra [18] which correspond to increasing azimuthal wave numbers. They have been related to linear modes of the non-linear magnetic base flow, but numerical simulations suggest that non-linear instabilities could show similar signatures [1].

The experimental model for the MSC flow simulated here is the Derviche Tourneur Sodium experiment (DTS- Ω), a $r_i = 74$ mm radius inner sphere containing a strong permanent dipole magnet inside a $r_o = 210$ mm radius outer sphere [16]. As the name implies, the fluid medium is liquid sodium. The shell of the inner sphere is made of copper (with four times the electrical conductivity of liquid sodium), while the outer sphere is made of stainless steel (with one ninth the electrical conductivity of liquid sodium). The rotation frequencies of the inner and outer sphere are respectively f_i and f_o , in the lab frame. A recent set of upgrades to the diagnostics allows for better diagnosing (both in terms of quality and quantity) of flows when the outer sphere rotates ($f_o \neq 0$).

In tandem with these upgrades and new run campaigns, a set of direct numerical simulations (DNS) have been run to predict and interpret the kinetic and magnetic measurements of the system. The set of DNS experiments shows three distinct dynamic regimes, though the lines between them are less than sharp. Figure 1 shows the (scaled) energies in the kinetic and magnetic fluctuations for the full set of DNSs, with indications of where the dynamics, discussed herein, change from one regime to another. The Rossby number ($Ro = \Delta f / f_o$, where $\Delta f = f_i - f_o$ is the differential rotation rate) appears as the prime determinant of which regime the system is in. For $Ro \in (-0.5, 1.5)$ the bulk flows appear quasigeostrophic with weak fluctuations. For $Ro < -1.5$ the flow is in a turbulent state, characterized by long lived filamentary structures. For $Ro = -1.2, -1.0$ fluctuations are dominated by large scale, persistent modes. The determining factor for the kinetic fluctuation levels changes between regimes. “Modal” fluctuation levels are determined by the Ro ; “Filamentary” fluctuation levels are determined by the f_o , which mostly likely relates to the diminished influence of the background magnetic field as the outer sphere spins faster. The magnetic fluctuation levels are determined by both Ro and f_o , but this only demonstrates that the velocity term in the magnetic induction equation (Eqn. 1 in Sec. I) has increased. The changes in both fluctuation levels are small over the range of Ro s and f_o s shown in “quasigeostrophic” regime, so the exact relationship between the parameters and the fluctuation levels is out of the scope of this paper.

This paper will proceed as follows. Section I introduces the numerical code used to model the DTS- Ω device. Section II shows the analysis of the computed velocity and magnetic fields when they are averaged over time and azimuth. Section III considers the full spatio-temporal data of the simulations and applies several techniques for analyzing them. The persistent modes are subject to a principal component analysis (PCA). The filaments are identified with their magnetic signatures at the surface. Section IV is a discussion of magnetic measurements at a single meridian on the outer surface of the sphere. This is the measurement that is available on the physical DTS- Ω device. Section V are conclusions for this work and perspectives for the future.

I. NUMERICAL MODEL

The dynamical system of the DTS- Ω is described by the magnetic induction and Navier-Stokes equations for an incompressible fluid. Equations are nondimensionalized by taking as length-scale the radius of the outer sphere r_o and as characteristic time $\tau \equiv |\Delta\Omega|^{-1}$ – where $\Delta\Omega \equiv 2\pi(f_i - f_o)$ is the angular velocity difference between the inner and outer sphere. Without loss of generality, $\Delta\Omega > 0$, while $\Omega \equiv 2\pi f_o$ can be either positive (corotation) or negative (counter-rotation). After choosing characteristic velocity $U_o \equiv r_o|\Delta\Omega|$, the nondimensionalized magnetic induction equation reads:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{b} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}) + \frac{Em}{|Ro|} \Delta \mathbf{b}, \quad (1)$$

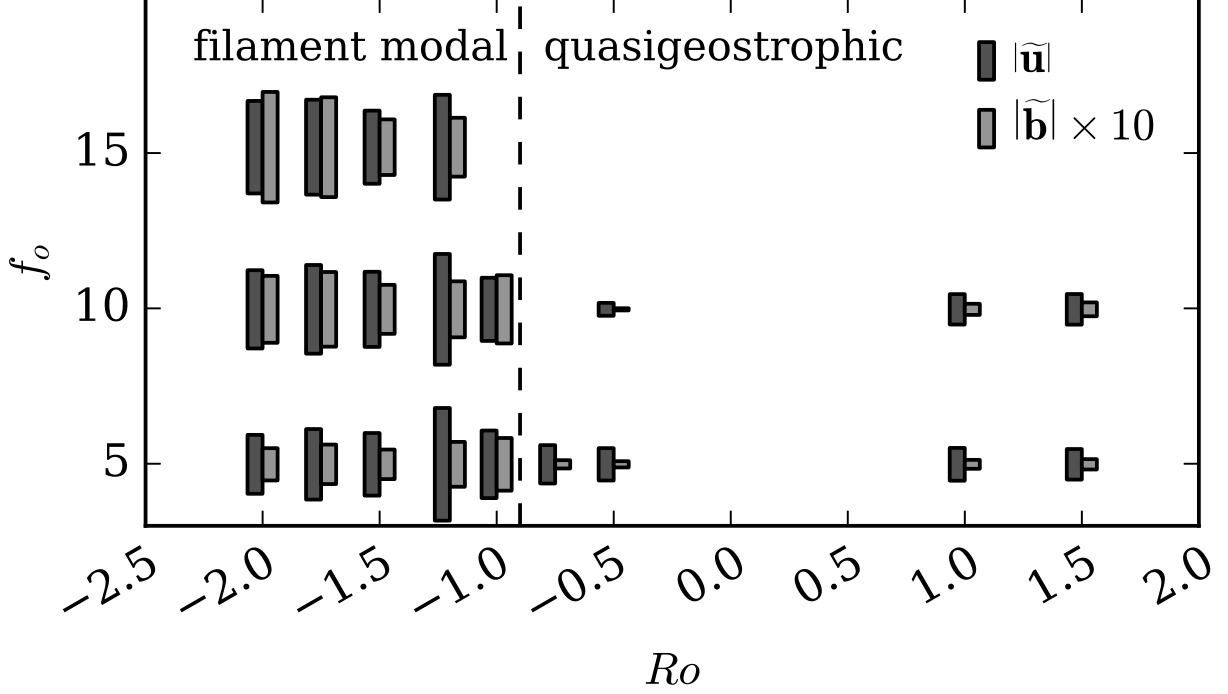


FIG. 1. Dynamic regimes of simulations of the DTS device. The heights of the dark (light) markers scale linearly with the kinetic (magnetic) fluctuation levels. The fluctuation levels are calculated by integrating the maps, calculated by Eqn. 7, in r and θ . The velocities and magnetic fields are both in nondimensional units ($1/U_o$ for velocity, V_A/U_o for magnetic fields).

where \mathbf{u} is the incompressible velocity field, \mathbf{b} is the magnetic field, Ro is the (signed) Rossby number ($\Omega^{-1}\Delta\Omega$), and Em is the magnetic Ekman number ($\eta/r_o^2|\Omega|$, with η the magnetic diffusivity). The Navier-Stokes equation, in the frame rotating with the outer sphere, is nondimensionalized as

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \mathbf{u} + \frac{2}{Ro} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \times \mathbf{u} = \\ \nabla p^* + \frac{Ek}{|Ro|} \Delta \mathbf{u} + \frac{\Lambda_o Em}{Ro^2} (\nabla \times \mathbf{b}) \times \mathbf{b} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where Ek is the Ekman number ($\nu/r_o^2|\Omega|$ with ν the viscosity), Λ_o is the Elsasser number at the outer sphere ($B_o^2/\mu_0\rho\eta|\Omega|$, with B_o the vertical magnetic field at r_o , μ_0 the magnetic constant, and ρ the density of the medium), and p^* a reduced pressure absorbing all potential forces. The magnetic field is represented in the code as an Alfvén velocity ($V_A = B/\sqrt{\mu_0\rho}$), and the nondimensional magnetic field is this V_A/U_o . The values of these parameters in the DTS- Ω are given in Tab. I. The simulations presented here were designed to match the Ro , Em , and $\Lambda_{i,o}$ values of the machine as closely as possible. The Ek is treated as a nuisance parameter; how and why we treat it that way is handled below.

The two dynamical equations are completed by boundary conditions. The no-slip boundary condition applies to the velocity field, namely $\mathbf{u}(r = r_i) = r \sin \theta \hat{\phi}$ and $\mathbf{u}(r = r_o) = 0$. The magnetic field matches with potential fields outside the solid shells and the conductivity jumps at the solid-liquid boundaries are treated within the finite difference framework [19, 20]. Everything stays spherically symmetric to fit in a spectral framework. However, as the goal is to investigate the properties of a real experiment, the applied magnetic field is chosen to approximate the field of DTS- Ω 's inner magnet, rather than a pure dipole, including magnetic harmonics up to degree 11 and order 6 [19]. The inhomogeneous magnetic field is rotated in phase with the inner sphere.

Because both velocity (\mathbf{u}) and magnetic (\mathbf{b}) fields are divergence free, our three-dimensional spherical code `xshells`

f_o	Ek $\frac{\nu}{r_o^2 \Omega }$	Em $\frac{\eta}{r_o^2 \Omega }$	Ro $\frac{\Delta\Omega}{\Omega}$	Λ_o $\frac{B^2(r=r_o)}{\mu_0\rho\eta \Omega }$	Λ_i $\frac{B^2(r=r_i)}{\mu_0\rho\eta \Omega }$
5 Hz	4.69×10^{-7}	6.38×10^{-2}	[-7.0, 5.0]	1.77×10^{-2}	9.22
10 Hz	2.35×10^{-7}	3.19×10^{-2}	[-4.0, 2.0]	8.87×10^{-3}	4.61
15 Hz	1.56×10^{-7}	2.13×10^{-2}	[-3.0, 1.0]	5.92×10^{-3}	3.07
20 Hz	1.17×10^{-7}	1.60×10^{-2}	[-2.5, 0.5]	4.44×10^{-3}	2.30

TABLE I. Definitions of useful nondimensional parameters for DTS- Ω , and their values/ranges at various outer sphere rotation rates. The two values given for Ro are, respectively, the maximum and minimum values attainable for a given f_o . The values given for Λ_o and Λ_i are, respectively, the Elsasser number at the outer sphere, where the applied field is weakest, and at the inner sphere, where the applied field is strongest. The Em and $\Lambda_{i,o}$ of the simulations are chosen to match those of the machine. The Ek of the simulations are set to 10^{-6} .

represents them as solenoidal vector spherical harmonics

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{u}(r_i, \theta, \phi) &= \sum_{\ell=|m|}^{\ell_{max}} \sum_{m=-m_{max}}^{m_{max}} \nabla \times \nabla \times s_{\ell,m}(r_k) Y_{\ell}^m(\theta, \phi) \hat{\mathbf{r}} \\
&\quad + \nabla \times t_{\ell,m}(r_k) Y_{\ell}^m(\theta, \phi) \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad \text{and} \\
\mathbf{b}(r_k, \theta, \phi) &= \sum_{\ell=|m|}^{\ell_{max}} \sum_{m=-m_{max}}^{m_{max}} \nabla \times \nabla \times S_{\ell,m}(r_k) Y_{\ell}^m(\theta, \phi) \hat{\mathbf{r}} \\
&\quad + \nabla \times T_{\ell,m}(r_k) Y_{\ell}^m(\theta, \phi) \hat{\mathbf{r}}, \tag{3}
\end{aligned}$$

where Y_{ℓ}^m are scalar spherical harmonics. The radial functions are evaluated at every radial grid point, and their derivatives are taken by second order finite difference. The forwards and backwards spherical harmonic transforms are carried out using the efficient SHTns library [20]. `xshells` performs the time stepping of Eqn. 2 in the fluid spherical shell, and the time stepping of Eqn. 1 in both the conducting walls and the fluid. It uses a semi-implicit Crank-Nicholson scheme for the diffusive terms, while all other terms are handled by an Adams-Bashforth scheme (second-order in time). The time, space, and spectral resolutions of the simulations vary most strongly with Ek for numerical stability. The resolutions for the runs presented here are specified in appendix A.

Preliminary simulations in the range $10^{-5} > Ek \geq 10^{-7}$ suggested that Ek serves to set the spatial resolution required for numerical stability, but does not drastically affect the dynamics of the large eddies in the bulk flow, as long as Ek is small enough. The induced magnetic spectra were similarly agnostic to Ek . Thus we make two assumptions in the interest of reducing the necessary spectral resolution. The first is that $Ek = 10^{-6}$ adequately represents the large scale component of the flow. The second is that a hyperviscosity [21] adequately models the turbulent cascade to small scales in the Ekman layer. To justify this, Fig. 2 shows the energy in each azimuthal harmonic m as a function of radius. The higher order harmonics are only really visible in the last 0.005 of the sphere. The underlying assumption of hyperviscosity is that, for a turbulent cascade, there is a net transfer of energy to smaller and smaller scales through a Kolmogorov cascade, and that this energy transfer can be modeled as an effective viscosity that increases in value at smaller and smaller scales. Our simulations use a modified version of the hyperviscosity [22], that only applies to the angular part of the Laplace operator and to the last 20% of degrees ($\ell_0 > 0.8\ell_{max}$) according to

$$\nu_{\ell > \ell_0} = \nu_0 \times h^{(\ell - \ell_0)/(\ell_{max} - \ell_0)} \tag{4}$$

where ν_0 is the base viscosity and h is the ratio between the viscosity at ℓ_{max} and ν_0 , here chosen to be 1000.

In the majority of cases at $f_o = 5, 10$ Hz, the simulations were initialized from a previous set of simulations with identical Ro and slightly different Λ and Em . The simulations at $f_o = 15$ Hz were initialized from runs at the same Ro at $f_o = 10$ Hz. The runs at $Ro = -0.50, -0.75$, and -1.75 were seeded off simulations at $Ro = -1.00, -0.50$, and -1.50 respectively. In all cases, the analyses are carried out after waiting 40 differential rotation periods for the new simulation to settle. Unless otherwise mentioned, statistics and analyses are reckoned over 60 differential rotation periods.

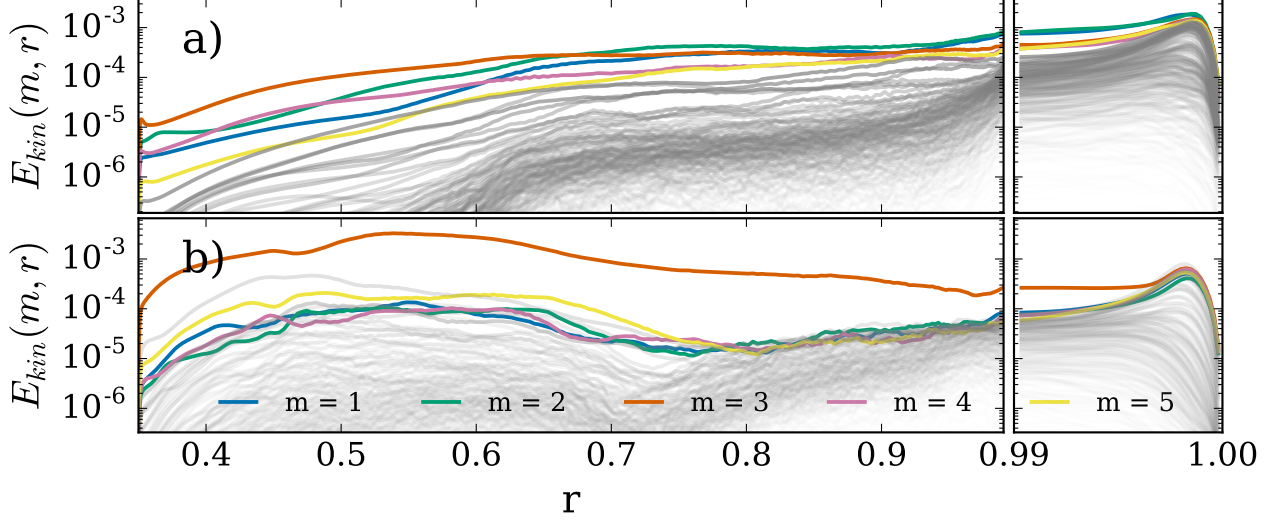


FIG. 2. Kinetic energy in each $m > 0$ azimuthal wavenumber as a function of spherical radius for (a) $Ro = -2.0$, $f_o = 10$ Hz and (b) $Ro = -1.0$, $f_o = 10$ Hz. The $m \in [1, 5]$ are colored, the others have their opacity set as a function of the largest value in the bulk flow. A zoom of the last 0.01 is shown on the right.

II. TIME AVERAGED SPATIAL DATA

The diagram of Fig. 1 shows the kinetic and magnetic fluctuation levels of the simulations. These fluctuations are defined in a frame of reference rotating with the inner sphere

$$\bar{\mathbf{b}}(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{b}(r, \theta, \phi, t_i), \text{ and} \quad (5)$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{b}}(r, \theta, \phi, t_i) = \mathbf{b}(r, \theta, \phi, t_i) - \bar{\mathbf{b}}(r, \theta, \phi). \quad (6)$$

The corotation is necessary for the magnetic fluctuations because the applied field is three dimensional. A two dimensional map of the kinetic or magnetic energy densities can be found by integrating

$$\langle \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \rangle(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{b}}(r, \theta, \phi, t_i). \quad (7)$$

these maps, when integrated in r and θ , give the values represented in Fig. 1.

The maps of kinetic and magnetic fluctuation levels for several flows are shown in Fig. 3. The top row shows the kinetic fluctuation levels with isocontours of the angular velocity overplotted; the dashed lines indicate the region of superrotation. The bottom row shows the magnetic fluctuation levels profile with fieldlines of the poloidal magnetic field overplotted. Profiles for $Ro = 1.5$, -1.0 , and -2.0 , all at $f_o = 10$ Hz, are shown in successive rows. These flows were chosen as exemplar of the various different dynamic regimes. The flow at $Ro = 1.5$ is defined by low fluctuation levels of both the kinetic and magnetic fields. The mean flow is decidedly quasigeostrophic, with only the barest nub of a superrotary region near the equator of the inner sphere. The $Ro = -1.0$ flow has a quasigeostrophic region near the outer edge, but the dominant feature of both the mean flow and the fluctuations is a large superrotary region extending into bulk flow where the strongest of the kinetic and magnetic fluctuations live. The $Ro = -2.0$ flow starts to return to quasigeostrophy, although the bulk flow has not quite reached a state of z invariance. Here the fluctuations of the kinetic energy live predominantly towards the outer sphere, while the strongest magnetic fluctuations are concentrated more towards the inner sphere. This is not particularly surprising, as the applied magnetic field is 27 times stronger at the inner sphere than the outer.

In section III we will see that the fluctuations at $Ro = -1.0$ are characterized by persistent structures with a fairly well defined spatial location, while the fluctuations at $Ro = -2.0$ are characterized by intermittently formed

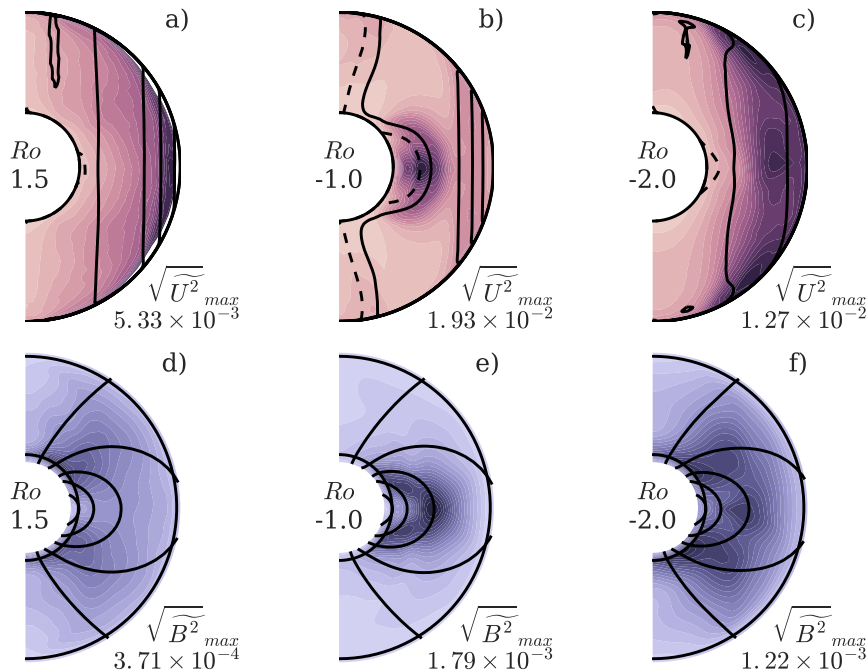


FIG. 3. Fluctuation levels of the magnetic and velocity fields. The first row, (a, b, and c), shows the kinetic fluctuations, the second row, (d, e, and f), shows the magnetic fluctuations. The numbers on the lower right indicate the maximum value of the energy density (excluding the Ekman layer). The contour lines in the first row represent isocontours of angular momentum of the bulk fluid. Inside the dashed line the bulk fluid is rotating faster than the inner sphere in the reference frame of the outer sphere. The contour lines in the second row are field lines of the mean poloidal magnetic field. Each column presents a set of parameters firmly in the quasigeostrophic (a and d), modal (b and e), and filamentary (c and f) regimes. All of the fluctuation levels are calculated for an outer sphere rotation rate of 10 Hz.

structures that propagate poleward from their point of origin. This means that the time averages of Fig. 3b gives a good indication of the shape of the fluctuations being averaged over, while the time averages of Fig. 3c smear the structures out over the region they propagate through.

III. SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

A. Modal flows

The flows at $Ro = -1.2, -1.0$ revealed fluctuations living deep in the bulk of the flow. Figure 4 shows the time and azimuthally averaged kinetic and magnetic fluctuations at $Ro = -1.2, f_o = 10$ Hz (a and c respectively) and for $Ro = -1.0, f_o = 10$ Hz (b and d). The streamlines of the mean meridional flow are plotted over each map. Both cases include an outward streaming jet originating at the equator of the inner sphere and an inward streaming jet originating at the equator of the outer sphere. The difference is that at $Ro = -1.2$ the outward jet dominates the mean flow, extending to a radius of 0.82, while at $Ro = -1.0$ the inward jet dominates from a radius of 0.40. In both cases the oppositely directed jet is too weak to be seen in the streamlines.

The kinetic fluctuations at $Ro = -1.2$ live predominantly near the stagnation point, ($u_s = 0$); those at $Ro = -1.0$ live in the jet itself ($|u_s|_{max}$) as shown in Fig. 5. The jets velocities are shown in Fig. 5a. The azimuthal flows, shown in Fig. 5b, and background magnetic fields, shown in Fig. 5c, do not seem to determine whether a location is stable or not, but their profiles are noted for use later.

These fluctuations proved susceptible to a principle component analysis (PCA, see Appendix B), where a spatio-temporal signal is decomposed into individual spatial structures that evolve independently of each other in time. The first three of these structures for $Ro = -1.2$, averaged in azimuth à la Fig. 4 are shown in Fig. 6 (a-c) with their time series shown in Fig. 6d. The streamlines of the meridional flow are plotted over the maps. The dominant mode (a) is the only one that has almost no fluctuations at the equator. (This mode is more clearly dominant at $f_o = 5$ Hz).

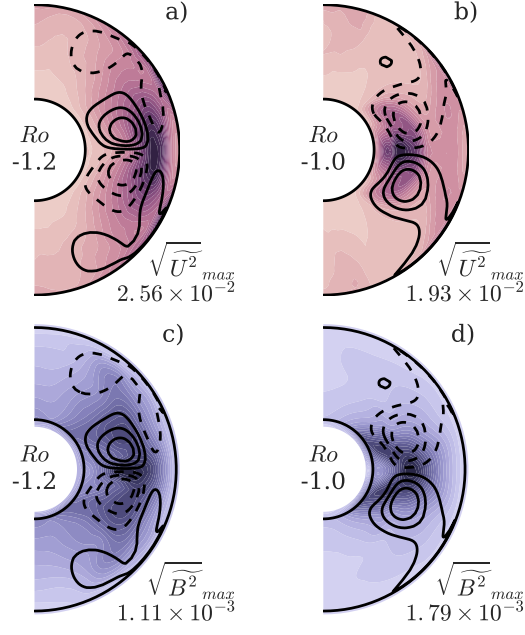


FIG. 4. As in Fig. 3, but only for modal flows. The contour lines represent streamlines of poloidal circulation. Solid lines are counter-clockwise circulation; dashed lines are clockwise circulation. All of the energies are calculated for a outer sphere rotation rate of 10 Hz.

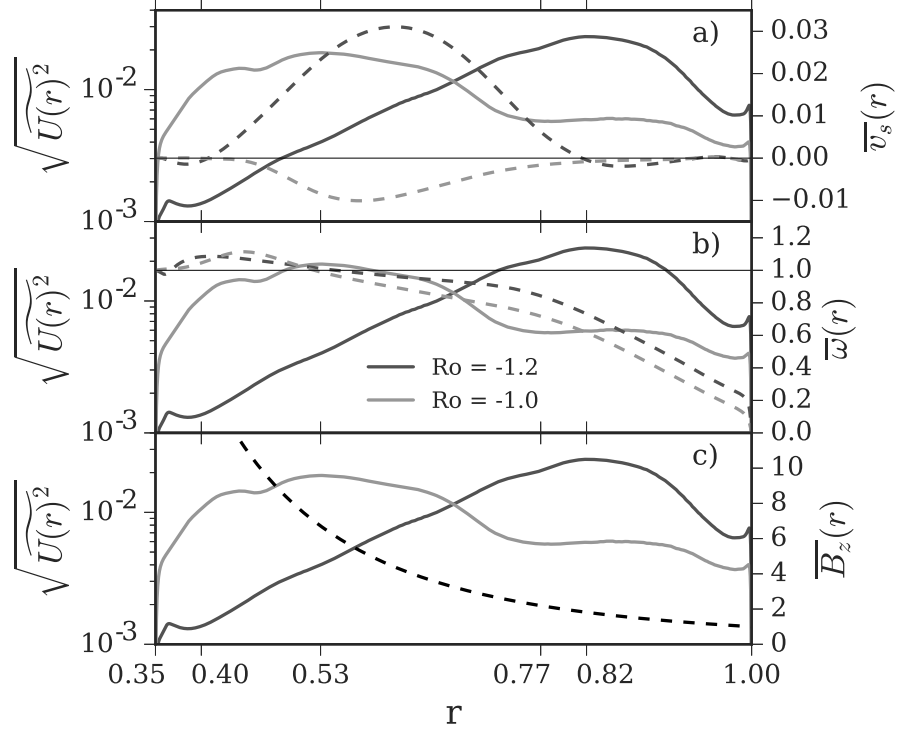


FIG. 5. Kinetic fluctuation levels at the equator (solid lines) for $Ro = -1.2$ and $Ro = -1.0$ and $f_o = 10$ Hz in log-scale (on the left) as a function of r . The (a) bulk flows' radial velocity, (b) bulk flows' angular velocities, and (c) vertical magnetic field in the equatorial plane are plotted as dashed lines with the vertical scales on the right. The radii of the peak fluctuation levels are noted on the x-axis.

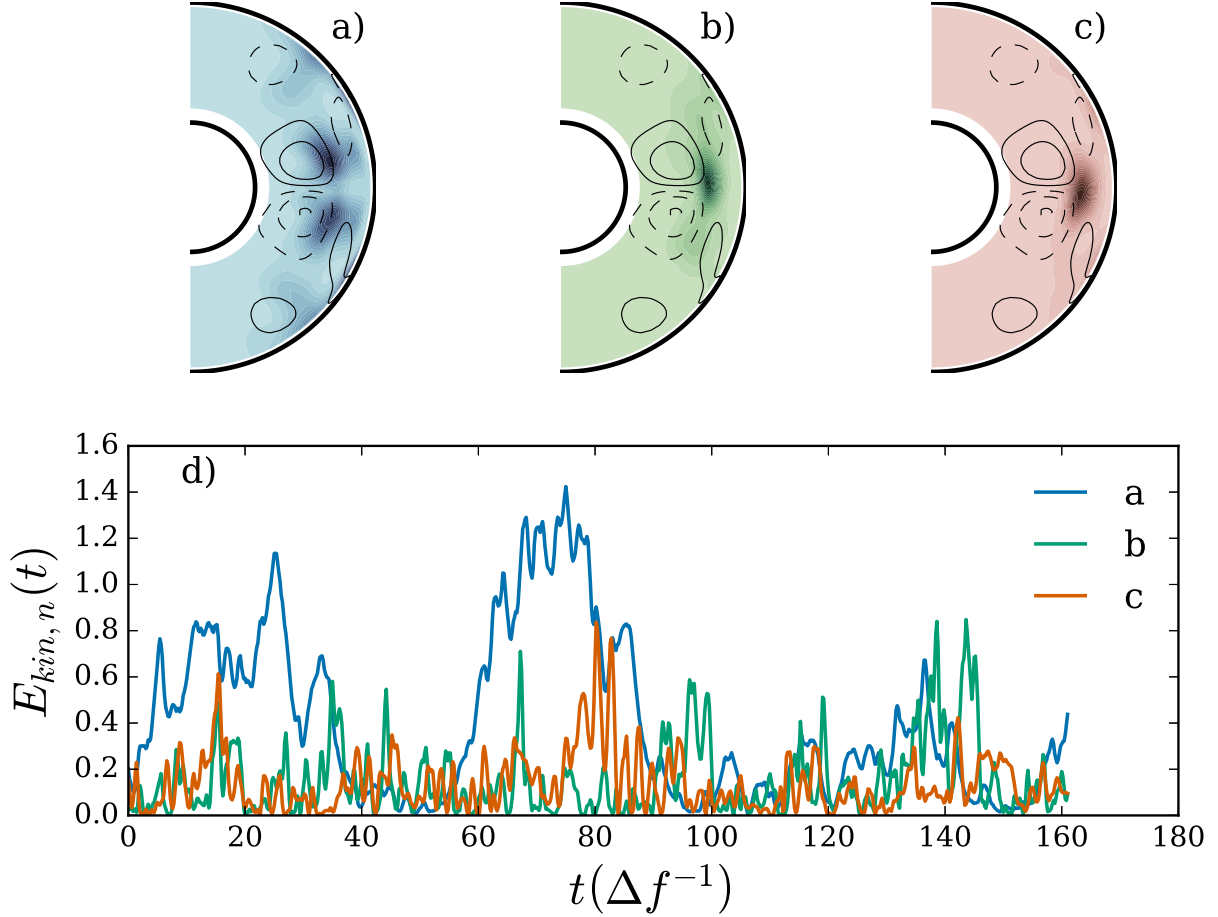


FIG. 6. (a-c) Azimuthally averaged kinetic energy density of the first three singular modes of the $Ro = -1.2$, $f_o = 10$ Hz flow. (d) The energy in each mode (a-c) as a function of time, scaled against the mean energy in the kinetic fluctuations of the raw signal. Only the region $r \in [0.425, 0.975]$ is included in the PCA.

Figure 7 shows 3-d renderings of the dominant principal component, both the velocity field (a,b) and the surface magnetic field associated with it (c,d) for $Ro = -1.2$ (a,c) and $Ro = -1.0$ (b,d). The dominant mode is antisymmetric at $Ro = -1.2$, and symmetric at $Ro = -1.0$. It is worth noting that the background magnetic field, shown in Fig. 5 is $3.5\times$ larger at the $Ro = -1.0$ fluctuation peak than at the $Ro = -1.2$ peak.

This behavior connects the modes seen here with those found in other simulations of MSC flow. For MSC flow without global rotation and a vertical, homogeneous applied field, Hollerbach [23] found equatorially antisymmetric instabilities of the equatorial jet at low applied magnetic field and equatorially symmetric instabilities of the stagnation point at an applied field about $2.5\times$ stronger (depending on the rotation of the inner sphere). The magnetic fields in these simulations were comparable to those performed here (equivalent to $10^{-3} < \Lambda < 5 \times 10^{-2}$, see Appendix A). Continuing on this, Gissinger *et al.* [24] explored a similar system with a dipole magnetic field and global rotation (equivalent to $Ro = 3.5$, $0.007 \leq \Lambda_o \leq 2.8$ by our definitions [25]) and found a similar set of instabilities changing from antisymmetric to symmetric about the equator as the applied magnetic field was increased. The modes found here are novel in that the jet is equatorially symmetric and the return flow instability is antisymmetric. This suggests that the actual stability of the background flows in all of these cases is agnostic to the magnetic field entirely, but that the symmetry is determined by the strength of the vertical field where the instability arises. It is worth noting that the other principle components of $Ro = -1.2$ resemble the principle component of $Ro = -1.0$ in shape and symmetry (see supplementary material).

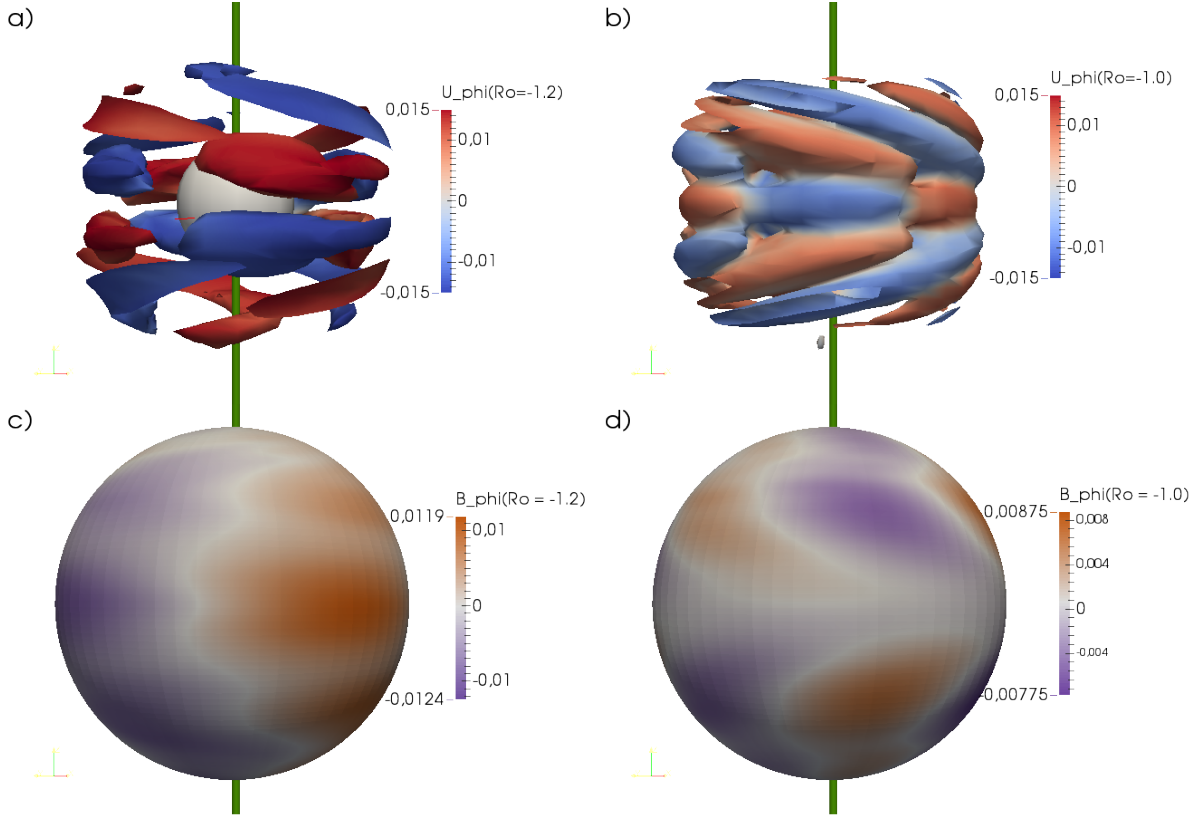


FIG. 7. **Paraview** rendering of a) the velocity component and c) the surface magnetic field of the first principle component at $Ro = -1.2$, $f_o = 10$ Hz. Figures b) and d) are the same for $Ro = -1.0$, $f_o = 10$ Hz. The surfaces in a) and b) are isocontours of $|\mathbf{u}|$, at $0.15U_0$ and $0.10U_0$ respectively, with the azimuthal velocity painted on the surface. The azimuthal magnetic field of the components (scaled against B_o) at the surface of the outer sphere are shown in c) and d). The inner sphere is visible in (a); the green cylinders represent the rotation axis.

B. Filamentary flow

When the differential rotation is increased beyond $Ro = -1.2$, the fluctuations move out of the bulk flow and take up residence along the outer sphere. Here they form long, thin filaments, at predominantly $m=1$, that are carried towards the pole by the meridional circulation. At these higher latitudes, they split up along the azimuthal coordinate. Figure 8 shows (a) a 3-d rendering of an isocontour of kinetic energy and (c) the latitudinal magnetic field at the surface and the magnetic field lines originating on the kinetic isocontours and extending out of the sphere. The same is shown at a time 16 differential rotation periods later, as the filament is breaking up, in (b & d), though the surface field is azimuthal in (d). The magnetic field lines extending from the kinetic structures into the vacuum are also shown in (c & d).

The surface magnetic field seems to be a good indicator of the flow underneath. Figure 9a shows the cylindrically integrated kinetic energy,

$$E_{kin}(z, t) = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\sqrt{1-z^2}} ds \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(s, z, \phi, t), \quad (8)$$

where s is the cylindrical radius $s = r \sin \theta$ and z is the cylindrical height $z = r \cos \theta$. The latitudinal field at the surface, averaged in ϕ is shown in Fig. 9b. The times Fig. 8 are taken from are indicated. The latitudinal field component corresponds well with the kinetic fluctuations near the equator (below $\sim 40^\circ$). The azimuthal field (not shown) has a stronger correspondence towards the poles. As seen in Fig. 8, the kinetic fluctuations are elongated more in ϕ towards the equator and more in θ towards the pole; the induced magnetic field seems strongest in the direction perpendicular to the elongation. This will be shown more in Section IV.

Previous simulations of the experiment with a stationary outer sphere also turned up two classes of fluctuations: a

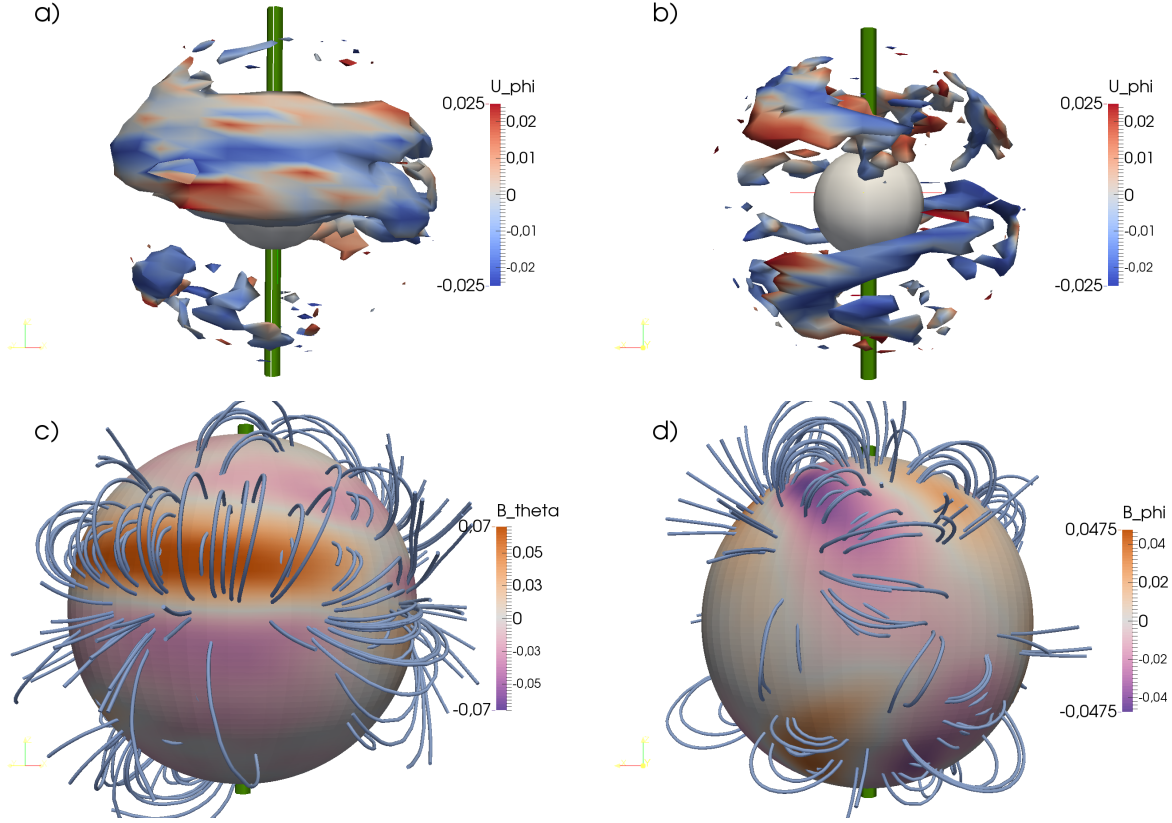


FIG. 8. Paraview [26] rendering of (a) an isosurface of $|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}|$ corresponding to $0.025 U_0$ and (b) the same contour $16\Delta f^{-1}$ later. The isosurfaces are painted with the azimuthal velocity. The surface magnetic fields, scaled against B_o of these snapshots are shown in (c) and (d) respectively, along with the magnetic field lines originating at the isocontours. The latitudinal field is shown for (c), the azimuthal field for (d). The green cylinders represent the rotation axis.

centripetal jet instability near the equator, and a Bödewalt type instability originating in the upper latitudes (above $\sim 40^\circ$) both propagating poleward [1]. The Bödewalt type instability is likely not present here, as the angular velocity profile at the outer sphere's pole ([1] Fig. 3) is replaced by an Ekman type boundary layer when the outer sphere rotates. The centripetal jet instabilities demonstrated some similar behaviour to the filaments seen here. Specifically structures generated near the outer sphere's equator are swept poleward by the meridional flow.

IV. SIMULATED PROBES

The tradeoff between experimental and numerical physics is that it is easy to get time series of experimental data, but difficult to extend that data outside a small domain that is amenable to direct measurement, while it is easy to see all of the structures within a simulation at the cost of large amounts of computing time. The longest simulations presented here correspond to 10-20 s of runtime on DTS- Ω . Given the full spatial data included in the simulation outputs, it is easy to produce simulated probes and associate these signals to specific structures. In this section we calculate the magnetic field at the outer surface on a single meridian over from snapshots taken at a rate of 50 per differential rotation period. All reported values for magnetic measurements are scaled against the vertical magnetic field at the outer sphere's equator B_o for ease of comparison between the simulations and the experiment (where B_o is 7.4 mT).

A. Modal Flows

The kinetic structures of Fig. 7 have specific azimuthal orders (m) and equatorial symmetries and are rotating relative to the outer sphere. Thus the magnetic field at the surface of the sphere should behave entirely as a function

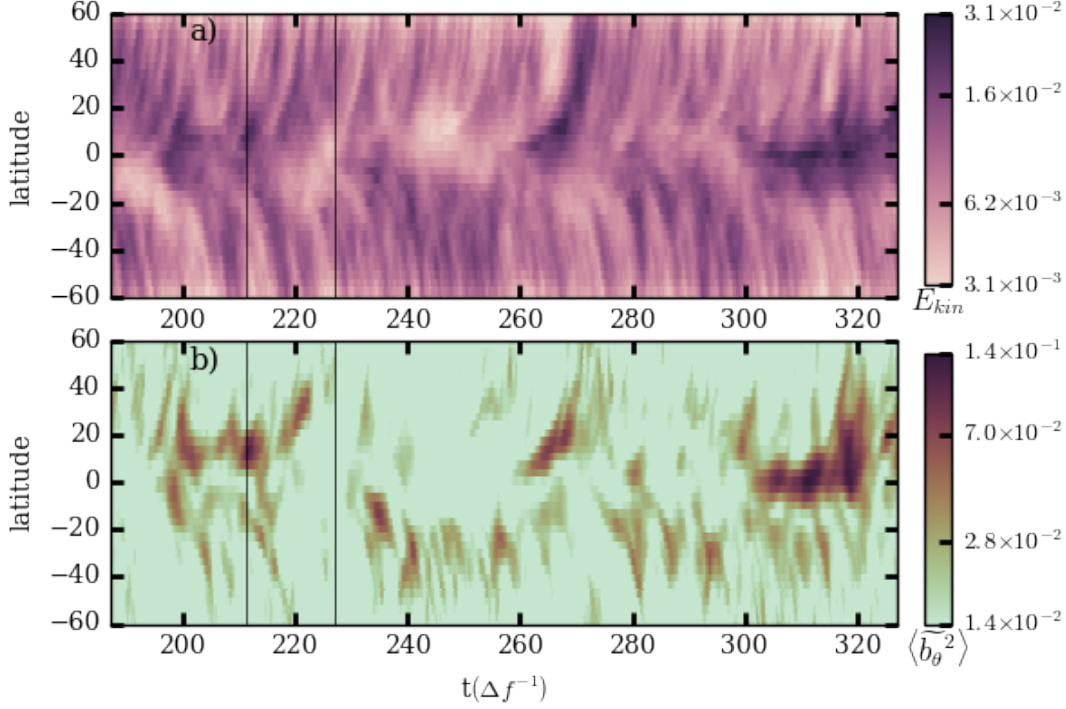


FIG. 9. a) Cylindrically Integrated kinetic energy vs latitude and time. b) Azimuthally integrated \tilde{b}_θ^2 at the surface (scaled vs B_o) vs latitude. Filamentary regime at $Ro = -2.0$ and $f_o = 10$ Hz. The vertical lines indicate the snapshots the renderings of Fig. 8 are taken from.

of the shape and rotation of the underlying structure. Figure 10 shows the magnetic field at the surface for (a) $Ro = -1.2$ and (b) $Ro = -1.0$, as well as the measurable field associated with the dominant principle component for each (c and d respectively). As in Fig. 7, the magnetic structures at $Ro = -1.2$ are vertical, and sweep past the probe with a frequency of $1.7\Delta f$ (rather, an $m=2$ structure rotating with a frequency of $0.85\Delta f$). The magnetic structures at $Ro = -1.0$ are helical and sweep past the probe with a frequency of $2.9\Delta f$ (rather an $m=3$ structure rotating at $0.96\Delta f$). In both cases, the full signal strongly resembles that of the dominant mode with additional signals on top. This is not preordained, as the PCA was computed over the entire volumetric dataset, and emphasizes again that the surface measurements are strongly connected to the global dynamics. The rotation rates are related to the mean flow of the background at the location of the structure; Fig. 5 indicates the locations where the bulk flow in the equator rotates at the rate of the structure ($r = 0.53$ for $Ro = -1.0$, and $r = 0.77$ for $Ro = -1.2$).

B. Filamentary Flows

The filaments of Section III B have broader azimuthal extent than the modes of the previous discussion. They are not easily divided into single azimuthal modes numbers, but the volume renderings of Fig. 8 show an apparent combination of $m=1$ and $m=2$, depending on the latitude. The latitudinal and azimuthal surface fields of Fig. 11 a & b (respectively), and their spectra in Fig. 11c & d provided some corroboration. The latitudinal field has the strongest spectral energy near the equator at a frequency of $0.75\Delta f$, and noticeable peaks near 1.5 and $2.25\Delta f$ (that is 2 or 3 times the fundamental) at higher latitudes. The azimuthal field at the surface is much stronger at higher latitudes and at the higher frequencies. Note also the low frequency modulation at frequency $\simeq 0.1\Delta f$, visible on the B_θ probes and their spectra, especially around the equator and 20 to 30° degrees of latitude, most certainly related to the poleward sweeping of the filaments (see III B).

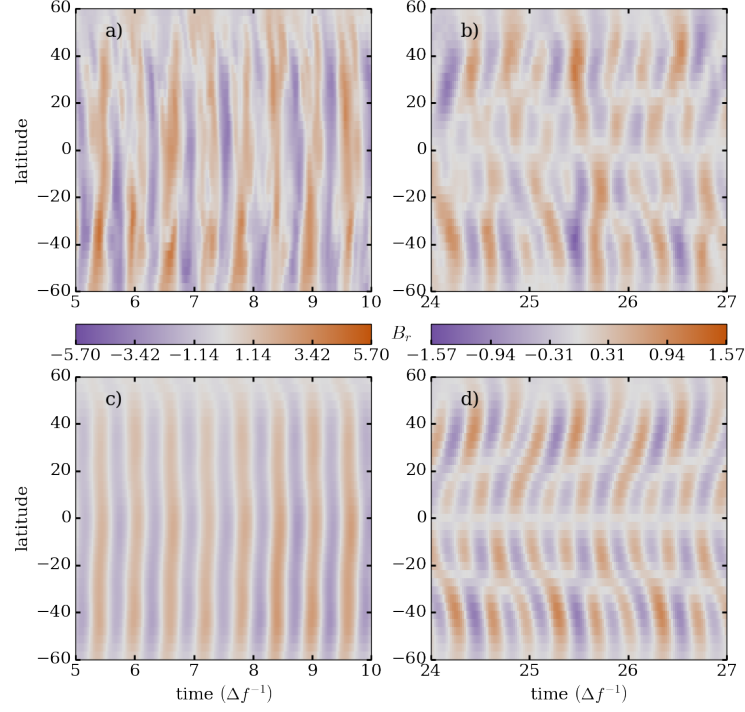


FIG. 10. Radial component of the surface magnetic field (as a percentage of B_0 at a single meridian on the outer sphere vs time at a) $Ro = -1.2$ and b) $Ro = -1.0$ at $f_o = 10$ Hz. The signal from the dominant principle component is shown below in c) and d) respectively.

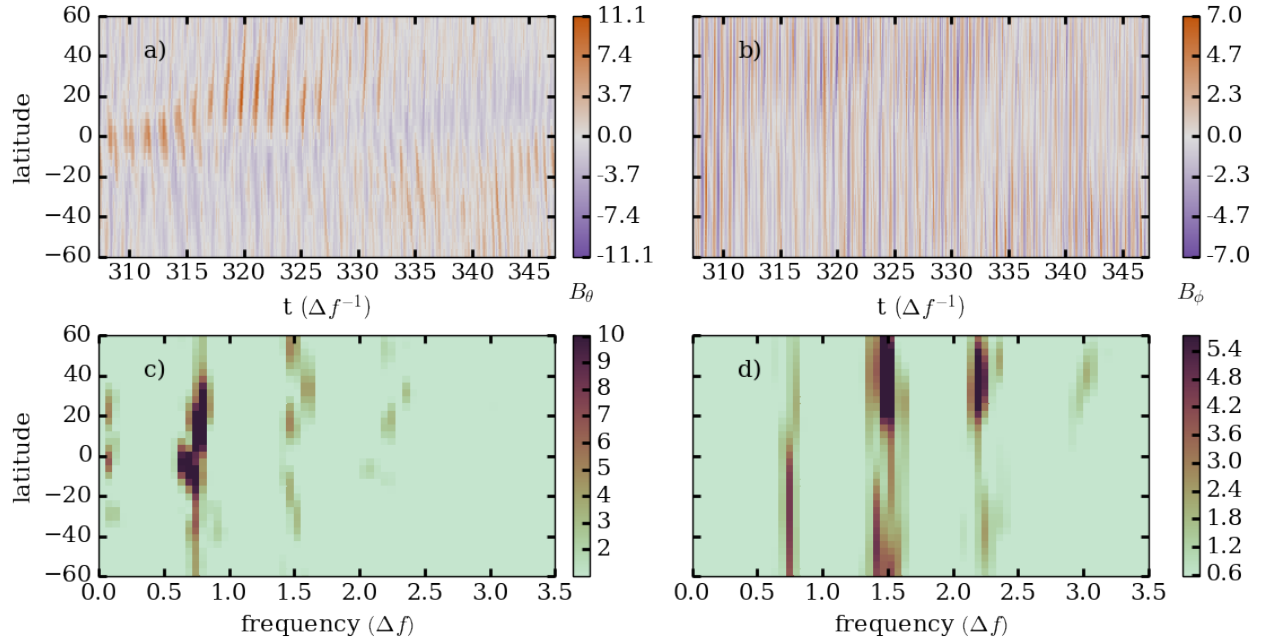


FIG. 11. a) Latitudinal component of the surface magnetic field (as a percentage of B_0 at a single meridian on the outer sphere vs time at $Ro = -2.0$ and $f_o = 10$ Hz. b) Power spectral density of the magnetic signal at each latitude on that meridian. The color scale is truncated at one half the maximum spectral level to help highlight the higher harmonics.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have carried out a set of magnetized spherical Couette (MSC) flow simulations at nondimensional parameters relevant to the DTS- Ω machine. These simulations have found a set of different dynamic regimes. For positive (and weakly negative, $Ro \geq -0.5$) differential rotation the flows were characterized by low fluctuation levels on top of quasigeostrophic base flows. At stronger, negative differential rotation, the flow consists of large scale internal structures, associated with magnetic signatures at the surface. At moderate, negative differential rotation, $Ro = -1.0$ and -1.2 , these structures are persistent, with a specific azimuthal order, rotating with the bulk flow. At stronger differential rotation, $Ro = -2.0$, these structures are intermittent (with lifespan around 10 differential rotation periods), with large azimuthal extent, that propagate poleward from their point of origin.

Given that simulations of MSC flow contain the full structures of the kinetic and magnetic fields, it is easy to draw relations between the one and the other. What is more difficult is taking the surface magnetic fields alone, *i.e.* the diagnostic which is most readily available to the physical DTS- Ω device, and inferring the structure of the velocity field that induces it. Nevertheless, some broad inferences can be made from the surface fields and their spectra. The shift from persistent structures to intermittent filaments corresponds to a shift from a single dominant frequency in magnetic field measurements to multiple bands depending on latitude and direction of the magnetic field.

The persistent structures have precedence in other simulations of MSCF [23, 24]. In all cases these structures arise from hydrodynamic instabilities of the meridional circulation (either in the equatorial jets or near the stagnation points). What is novel about the structures here is that the equatorial symmetry of these instabilities is reversed from those of [23, 24]. We attribute this to the strength of the background magnetic field. We hypothesize that the magnetic field determines the shape of the mean flow in all cases, but that these two dimensional flows are stable or unstable to three dimensional hydrodynamic instabilities independent of the magnetic field. Once a flow is unstable, the symmetry of the instability is then determined by the magnetic field strength. The symmetric instability at the stagnation point ($Ro = -1.2$) is compatible with an oscillation of that point within the plane of the equator as the strength of the colliding jets oscillate. In contrast, the antisymmetric instability of the inward jet ($Ro = -1.0$) is reminiscent of the instability that deflects the jet up or down [2, 13, 27].

The intermittent filaments seen here in the most turbulent cases share some features with the inward jets emerging from the outer sphere and drifting poleward in simulations of the DTS device without outer rotation [1]. However, the filaments evidenced in this work appear to last significantly longer.

Our simulations have also shown that the surface measurements of the magnetic fields are significantly affected by flow dynamics deep in the shell. This means that the many measurements that will be available on the DTS- Ω machine will likely help to evidence the flow regimes identified here, and beyond.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Appendix A: Simulation Parameters

The full simulations presented here were carried out using the nondimensional parameters and resolutions shown in Tab. II. This table includes the magnetic Reynolds ($Rm \equiv r_o^2 \Delta \Omega / \eta = Ro / Em$) for comparison with other MHD simulations. Other works on MSC flow [23] were characterized by the Hartmann number ($Ha_{o,i} = r_{i,o} B_{o,i} / \sqrt{\mu \rho \nu \eta}$) and Reynolds number ($Re = r_o^2 \Delta \Omega / \nu$), specifically because these numbers do not require that the outer sphere be rotating. Conveniently, the Ekman number is all that is required to convert into our nondimensionalization the rotation independent one ($Ha = \Lambda / \sqrt{Ek}$, and $Re = |Ro| / Ek$). This gives $10^5 < Re < 2 \times 10^6$. The Hartmann number varies between $6 < Ha_o < 18$ at the outer sphere and $162 < Ha_i < 486$ at the inner sphere. In the physical experiment these values take the ranges $10^6 < Re < 2 \times 10^7$, $Ha_o = 195$, and $Ha_i = 4430$.

		Λ_o	Λ_i	Em	Rm	ℓ_{max}
Ro	f_o					
-2.00	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	31.2	200
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	62.5	200
	15.19	0.006	3.264	0.021	95.2	200
-1.75	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	27.3	200
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	54.7	200
	15.19	0.006	3.264	0.021	83.3	200
-1.50	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	23.4	200
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	46.9	200
	15.19	0.006	3.264	0.021	71.4	200
-1.20	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	18.8	200
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	37.5	200
	15.19	0.006	3.264	0.021	57.1	200
-1.00	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	15.6	200
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	31.2	200
-0.75	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	11.7	100
-0.50		0.018	9.792	0.064	7.8	100
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	15.6	100
1.00	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	15.6	150
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	31.2	150
1.50	4.98	0.018	9.792	0.064	23.4	150
	9.97	0.009	4.896	0.032	46.9	150

TABLE II. Resolutions and nondimensional parameters of the simulations presented here. For all simulations the Ekman number $Ek = 10^{-6}$, the time resolution is $10^{-4}\Delta f^{-1}$, and the radial grid has 384 points. This table includes the magnetic Reynolds ($Rm \equiv r_o^2\Delta\Omega/\eta$) for comparison with other MHD simulations.

Appendix B: Principal Component Analysis of stable modes

Because the flows discussed in Section III A seem to primarily be saturated instabilities, they're amenable to a principal component analysis (PCA), wherein the flow is decomposed into individual spatial modes, each with its own timeseries [28]. The modes are chosen to maximize the cross correlation in time between different measurements (here the kinetic and magnetic spectra at each radial gridpoint (*i.e.* the $s_{\ell,m}(r_k)$, $t_{\ell,m}(r_k)$, $S_{\ell,m}(r_k)$ and $T_{\ell,m}(r_k)$ of Eqn. 3). The analysis is carried in the frame of the inner sphere according to

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{R}^H. \quad (\text{B1})$$

Here, \mathbf{A} is a matrix representing spatio-temporal data; \mathbf{R} is a matrix of so-called right eigenvectors, each representing a single spatial configuration that evolves together (\mathbf{R}^H is the complex conjugate and transpose of the matrix \mathbf{R}); \mathbf{L} is a matrix of so-called left eigenvectors, each representing the collective time evolution of its corresponding right eigenvector; and $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ is a diagonal matrix of singular values, each representing the relative strengths of the modes. The matrix \mathbf{A} is computed by removing the means of the magnetic and velocity fluctuations ($\tilde{\mathbf{b}}(r, \theta, \phi, t_j)$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(r, \theta, \phi, t_j)$ respectively), and the singular value decomposition (SVD) is carried out using `numpy`'s linear algebra module [29].

The time series of Fig. 10c and d are generated by converting individual principle components n back into a collection of snapshots $\mathbf{u}_n(t_j)$ by

$$\mathbf{u}_n(t_j) = l_{j,n} \sigma_n \mathbf{r}_n, \quad (\text{B2})$$

where \mathbf{r}_n is an individual column of \mathbf{R} , $l_{j,n}$ is an individual entry in \mathbf{L} , and σ_n is the singular value of n .

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